Academic Program Productivity Review

The following recommendation will change the Guidelines for Review of Academic Program Productivity by specifying that productivity reviews occur once every four years and that an interim productivity consultation be conducted between reviews.

> **ACTION: The staff recommends that the Council amend the Guidelines for Review of Academic Program Productivity to specify a four-year review cycle with an interim productivity consultation.**

The Council reviewed the results of three rounds of university program productivity reviews at the November 2005 meeting. It was determined that a smaller proportion of eligible programs fell below the established productivity thresholds with each round of productivity reviews. This finding indicates that, overall, the reviews have reduced the number of low-productivity programs. Consequently, the Council staff was directed to revise the Guidelines for Review of Academic Program Productivity to reduce the frequency of the quantitative productivity reviews. A campus consultation will be used in the interim years to identify new issues related to program productivity.

Productivity criteria collected from other states were compared to the Kentucky thresholds. A wide variety of review processes are used to identify inefficient programs. The University of Wisconsin System no longer monitors productivity but allows individual campuses to identify their own low-productivity programs. South Dakota monitors small course sections rather than program degree output. Additionally, state higher education agencies that monitor degree output may use a variety of additional measures and criteria to validate the low-productivity programs. The following table summarizes similar degree output thresholds of the productivity review processes from selected states.

Academic Program Annual Average Productivity Standards for Selected States

State	AA	BA/BS	MA/MS	PhD
KY	12	12	7	5
AL	7.5	7.5	3.75	2.25
LA	-	8	5	2
MD	5	5	2	1
NE	10	7	5	3
OK	5	5	3	2
VA	10	5	3	2

Additional program productivity review issues raised in the November 2005 outcome report presentation will be addressed by the Council staff in cooperation with the institutions. Detailed steps and timelines for future productivity reviews will be developed with procedures for recognition of certifications within degree programs and productivity measurements of collaborative programs.

Staff preparation by Sherri Noxel

Guidelines for Review of Academic Program Productivity

That the Council *[Kentucky Council on Postsecondary Education]* staff review the status of all existing programs in operation for more than four years and identify those that do not appear to be sufficiently and effectively contributing to the needs of the statewide system of postsecondary education in Kentucky. <u>This review will occur once every four years.</u> Institutions will be asked to review each identified program at their respective institution and make a written recommendation about its continuation, modification, elimination, or consolidation into a cooperative program. The Council staff will consult with individual institutions and make recommendations to the Council on the most appropriate action for each program initially identified. Institutions can submit other evidence of the value of individual programs (for instance, research funding, number of declared candidates for the degree, or courses that service other programs), but this must be well documented.

That the following thresholds will be used to identify programs:

- Associate programs will be identified if they average fewer than 12 degrees awarded during the five-year period beginning with the 1994-95 academic year.

- Baccalaureate programs will be identified if they average fewer than 12 degrees awarded during the five-year period beginning with the 1994-95 academic year.

- Master's and specialist programs will be identified if they average fewer than seven degrees awarded during the five-year period beginning with the 1994-95 academic year.

- Doctoral programs will be identified if they average fewer than five degrees awarded during the five-year period beginning with the 1994-95 academic year.

<u>Between program productivity reviews Council staff will meet with campus representatives to discuss productivity issues and verify existing program structures ahead of the formal review.</u>